



Shelby County Board of Commissioners

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DAVID H. LILLARD, JR
Chairman

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To the Citizens of Shelby County, Tennessee

Dear Fellow Shelby Countians,

A recent Tennessee Supreme Court case dealing with the Charter form of county government in Knox County, Tennessee held that the offices of the Knox County Sheriff, Register, Trustee, Assessor and County Clerk were not properly established. This ruling has implications for Shelby County which also has a charter form of government and the Shelby County Charter also does not expressly establish these county offices. As a result, we must at a minimum amend the Shelby County Charter in order to provide for a method of establishing these offices. The Shelby County Charter and the operations of Shelby County Government materially affects all citizens of the County, including citizens who live in Memphis or any other municipality.

To address these issues, the Shelby County Board of Commissioners has formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Shelby County Charter Amendments. The Committee includes all 13 County Commissioners. The purpose of the Committee is to review the Charter, seek public input, and formulate proposed charter amendments to be voted on by the people in a referendum.

The Committee solicits the input of the people of Shelby County on a variety of topics related to the Committee's work. So that your comments may be timely considered by the Committee we ask that you submit your comments as soon as possible. All comments received will be distributed to each of the Commissioners on the County Commission. Regardless of where you live in Shelby County, your opinions are important.

Initially, the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee will be held in the 4th Floor Committee Room of the Shelby County Administration Building at 160 N. Main Street (southwest corner of Second Street and Poplar Avenue) in Memphis. The schedule of these meetings is posted on the Shelby County Website. However, the Committee will also hold multiple public hearings at various other locations at dates, times and places which will also be posted on the Shelby County Website as they are determined.

The Committee is not restricted to consideration of only those Charter issues directly raised by the Knox County case. The schedule of meetings of the Committee and public

hearings, along with key documents, are available on the link titled **Charter Amendment to be proposed by County Commission** that is posted on the homepage of the Shelby County Website at www.shelbycountyttn.gov.

Some limited illustrations of the areas where your input is solicited include, but are not limited to:

- Issues or current Charter provisions you feel that should be considered by the Committee for possible revision or amendment
- Your views on the issues to be considered by the Committee.
- Public Hearings- Suggestions as to the number of hearings to be held, the locations and times of the hearings; the structure of the hearings (for example, should open comments be permitted, or should comments be limited to a defined list of issues?
- How should notice of the public hearings and Committee meetings be made available to the public, i.e. publication in a newspaper, etc?

Please provide your comments electronically by using the **Citizen Comments** Link on the Shelby County Website.

If you prefer to mail your comments, please direct them to Ad Hoc Committee on Shelby County Charter Amendments, Shelby County Board of Commissioners; 160 N. Main Street, Suite 450; Memphis, Tennessee 38103. If you wish to speak to a staff member regarding any aspect of the Committee's operations or work, please call the staff member assigned to this Committee, Clay Perry, Deputy Administrator of the Board of Commissioners, at 901-545-4301.

Of course, please relay this information in any form you desire to your neighbors, friends and fellow citizens as the Committee genuinely seeks input from all citizens of Shelby County. Thank you for your consideration of this important work on behalf of the people of greater Shelby County.

Sincerely yours,



David Lillard
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

cc: Honorable AC Wharton, Jr.,
Mayor of Shelby County